

Norfolk  
Department  
of Utilities

Monthly  
Report



# At Work

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## Pump station valve replacement strengthens water system

### ***Department of Utilities saves money by using internal expertise***

Recently, two crews from different divisions of the Department of Utilities joined forces to replace a 30" valve at the Simonsdale Booster Pump Station #1, saving valuable city dollars and further strengthening the Norfolk Water System.

The two Simonsdale Booster Pump Stations are Norfolk Water System facilities located in Portsmouth that pump untreated water to Norfolk's water plants for treatment. The pump valve at Simonsdale Pump Station #1, however, stopped operating and had to be replaced.

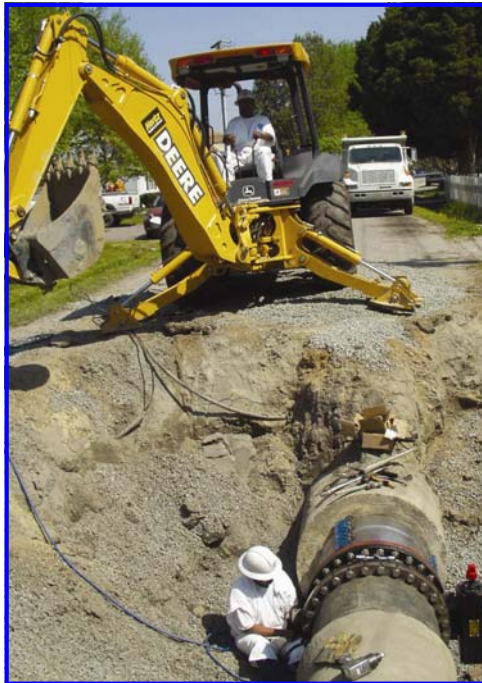
Two pipelines supply untreated water to the 37th Street Water Treatment Plant. Replacement of the valve would activate another water supply line to the plant and further strengthen the system's reliability.

For a variety of reasons, contractors are called on for jobs like this. They might have specialized equipment needed for a job, or the city might not be able to spare its employees for the amount of time it would take to complete the work.

In this case, however, the Divisions of Water Production and Water Distribution felt they had the skills to do the work with no outside help. So, at a regular Water Production maintenance planning meeting, Billy Branch, Senior Utility Maintenance Supervisor with the Division of Water Production, suggested that the two divisions handle the Simonsdale job.

"This was a job we could do in-house in less time for less money," said Branch. "And we need to do that whenever we have the opportunity."

This is not the first time the two crews have worked together. Over the past year, they have collaborated on about 10 repairs in Norfolk.



**Top left:** The old pump valve was removed.

**Top right:** The existing pipe was cut and the gap modified to accept the new pump valve.

**Middle left:** Equipment Operator III Billy McKinney removes the backhoe boom after putting the new valve in place.

**Middle right:** Crew members Wilson Blunt and Lawrence Collins (Water Production) and Wes Williamson (Water Distribution) tighten the repair clamp, making a water-tight seal between the new fitting and the existing pipe.

**Bottom left:** Immediately after the valve was replaced, Public Works repaired the road, and the neighborhood was back to normal.



**Valve replacement** continued on back

#### **Valve replacement from the front**

"The crews have different skills that meshed together to make this job successful," said Charles "Wes" Williamson, Utility Maintenance Supervisor with the Division of Water Distribution. "The Water Production crew works with pipe-lines all the time and can make repairs to them. Water Distribution also replaces valves routinely."

"And when we work together, we can cross-train each other," added Branch. "We exchange skills and learn a lot."

This valve was a little bigger than the ones they usually replace. The old valve weighed about 6,000 pounds. It measured 6 feet long and 40 inches in outside diameter.

Nonetheless, in less than one week, the crews replaced the gigantic valve at a cost of about \$18,500.00 — a job that would have cost between \$40,000.00 and \$60,000.00 if completed by a contractor.

"We saved the city time and money," said Branch. ♦

**Appearing soon  
in your mailbox!**



### **The City of Norfolk 2004 Water Quality Report**

- Lists all substances found in Norfolk drinking water from Jan. 2003-Dec. 2003.
- Tells customers how Norfolk's drinking water compares to United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Act standards.
- Arrives via direct mail to all Norfolk homes and businesses.
- In mid-June the report also will be available at all Norfolk Public Library branches, City Hall information desk, Department of Utilities office at 400 Granby Street, and on the Department of Utilities website at

[www.norfolk.gov/utilities](http://www.norfolk.gov/utilities)

**Again, Norfolk's Drinking Water  
meets all government standards!**

## **WATER-SAVING DEVICE #61**

### *Your garden*

The next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant and save up to 550 gallons of water each year.



There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.

### **Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant wins a Silver Award from HRSD**

The Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant recently received the 2003 Pre-treatment Excellence Silver Award given by Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD). The pre-treatment excellence awards are part of an incentive program to recognize excellent compliance records among those companies or facilities with industrial waste permits from HRSD.

During the purification process, the treatment plant removes solid products from the untreated water. After they are removed the solids are treated at special facilities at the water treatment plants, then discharged into the sanitary sewer system for final treatment by HRSD.

To qualify for the Pre-treatment Excellence Award, the water treatment plant must make sure that the waste it discharges meets permit standards, is environmentally safe and proves compatible to the final treatment process at HRSD.

Both Moores Bridges and the 37<sup>th</sup> Street Water Treatment Plant hold HRSD industrial waste permits, and both have received HRSD awards in the past. Besides compliance with permit standards, receipt of the award recognizes the facilities as environmentally conscious. ♦